

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 11121-US-PA
Application No.: 10/709,637

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Examiner issued rejections under 35 USC 103(a) for Claims 1-4, 6, and 8 as being unpatentable over Sakamoto (US 5,734,177) in view of Yamakita et al (US 20020105613).

In addition, Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto (US 5,734,177) in view of Yamakita et al (US 20020105613) in view of Katayama (US 6,100,947).

After amending Claim 1 and traversing of the rejections, Claims 1-8 remain pending in the present application.

Discussion of claim rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-4, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto (US 5,734,177, hereinafter "Sakamoto") in view of Yamakita et al (US 20020105613, hereinafter "Yamakita").

Regarding Claim 1, the Examiner has identified "a first aperture" found in Claim 1 as element (19) in FIG. 1 of Sakamoto, which belongs to the upper electrode; however, element (19) in Sakamoto is actually "a storage capacitor connection electrode 19" as described in Sakamoto in col. 8, lines 47-48 instead. Therefore, the following claim limitation in Claim 1: " wherein each storage capacitor has an upper electrode having at least a first aperture" is not suggested, taught, or disclosed in Sakamoto and Yamakita.

Furthermore, Claim 1 is amended to include the following claim limitation: "which

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is located underneath a pixel electrode near an edge of the pixel electrode." The amendment is fully supported in FIGs. 2, and 4-7 in the present invention as elements 244, 244b, 344, and 344a. Since there is only one aperture 6a as described in Yamakita in paragraph [0123] and is located in the center portion of the pixel electrode as shown in FIG. 2 in Yamakita, the amended Claim 1 (having the first aperture located near an edge of the pixel electrode) is patentable over Sakamoto and Yamakita.

Regarding Claim 8, the following claim limitation: "wherein each of pixel electrodes further comprises at least a second aperture when the first aperture is located underneath the pixel electrode, and the second aperture is formed above the first aperture" is patentably distinguish over Sakamoto and Yamakita. According to FIGs 4H and 7H in Sakamoto, there is only one aperture in the form of a contact hole 22 located underneath the pixel electrode 23 without an aperture through the connection electrode 19; whereas, the present invention clearly has a first aperture and a second aperture located directly above the first aperture as shown in FIG. 3 of the present invention. As a result, Claim 8 is patentable over Sakamoto and Yamakita.

The Office Action also rejected Claims 5,7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto (US 5,734,177, hereinafter "Sakamoto") and Yamakita et al (US 20020105613, hereinafter "Yamakita") in view of Katayama (US 6,100,947, hereinafter "Katayama")

Pending the allowance of Claim 1, dependent Claims 5 and 7 are also allowed.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending Claims 1-8 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted

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